



# Energy Saving Utilities Tips

## **HEATING & COOLING MAINTENANCE**

Change filters once a month to help your system run more efficiently. If you have pleated filters, change them at least every three months. And have a preseason checkup of your system by a licensed contractor in the spring and fall to ensure all parts are working properly to avoid early system failure. If your furnace is more than 15 years old, or your air conditioning unit is more than 12 years old, consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient and properly sized heat pump system.

## **CLOTHES WASHER**

Water heating accounts for about 90% of the energy your washer uses to clean clothes. Switching to cold water can save you more than \$40 annually. Always wash full loads. If your washer is more than 10 years old, you may want to consider investing in an ENERGY STAR® qualified clothes washer.

## **CLOTHES DRYER**

Don't over-dry your clothes. A dryer operating an extra 15 minutes per load can cost you up to \$34 every year. If your dryer has a moisture sensor, use it to turn off the machine automatically when clothes are done. Clean the lint trap before every load to increase drying efficiency – and you can save more than \$30 a year. This could save you \$50 a year on your utility bills and about 7,000 gallons of water.

## **PROPER ATTIC INSULATION**

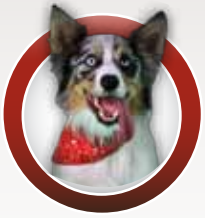
If your home has less than eight inches of attic insulation, adding more insulation can help lower your energy bills. Insulation is designed to resist heat flow, reducing the amount of heat transferred inside your house during hot weather and helping reduce heat losses through your ceiling when it's cold outside.

## **ATTIC SEALING**

Your attic's plumbing stacks, chimney or furnace flues, vents, heating and cooling system ductwork and electrical wires often have gaps around them, allowing the conditioned air in your home to escape into the attic. This can cause air drafts and increase your energy bill. Use proper caulk, spray foam sealant, duct sealant or metal flashing to cover gaps, cracks and holes.

## **ATTIC HATCH OR DOOR**

Weather-stripping and insulating your attic hatch or door can prevent conditioned air from escaping out of your house into the attic. Adding a thermal hood (normally Styrofoam) over the hatch door opening also can cut down on conditioned air loss.



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## **OVERFLOW REFRIGERATOR**

Think carefully before deciding to put your old refrigerator in the garage or basement for overflow storage. These overflow storage refrigerators can cost \$90 or more per year to operate. Remember to recycle your old refrigerator.

## **WATER HEATER**

Water heating costs make up about 19% of your home's total energy bill. Set your water heater's temperature to 120 degrees for optimal performance and wrap your electric water heater with an insulated blanket for additional savings. Read the installation instructions/warranty to make sure this doesn't void the warranty. If your water heater is more than 7 years old, chances are it's wasting energy; consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient model. Today's water heaters are much more efficient, saving you energy and money.

## **DUCTWORK**

Make sure your ductwork is properly sealed and installed. Cracks in ductwork and/or poorly installed ductwork can increase your heating and cooling costs by as much as 30%.